In The Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 5, insert the following heading: BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

Please replace the following for the original paragraph 0014 beginning on page 4:

[0014] A schematic diagram of a simplified prior art crossbar is shown in FIG. 1, and indicated generally at 10. For simplicity, four (4) ports 12, 14, 16, 18 are shown, specifically port0, port1, port2 and port3. Each port is typically designed as an input port for receiving data from a source agent and an output port for transmitting data from the input port to a destination agent. In particular, as shown in FIG. 1, port0 12 is designed for an input port 20 with an 8 bit data width and an output port 22 with also an 8 bit data width. In other words, an 8 bit length data width is allowed for transmission on port0 12 as input data or output data. Generally, if a connection via the crossbar is N ~~bit~~ bits wide and operates at a bandwidth of X ~~bit~~ bits per second, M bit of data will complete a transmission in $M/(N*X)$ seconds. Data received on the input ports typically includes control data 24, which indicates information and/or destination output port relating to the data.

Please replace the following for the original paragraph 0018 beginning on page 6:

[0018] As shown, unlike the prior art, each port of the present crossbar can be customized with different port configurations. In particular, input port0 60 and the output port0 62 of port0 52 are customized to receive "A" data bits and transmit "B" data bits, which indicates different bit lengths for the input port and the output port. Control data 64 generally sent together with data received on the input port0 60 will have "C1" bits. The present invention also includes crossbar control data 66 having "C2" bits that

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indicates crossbar control information for transferring data from the input port0 ~~62~~ 60 to ~~an~~ the output port0 62 having different port configurations.

Please replace the following for the original paragraph 0027 beginning on page 10:

[0027] Turning to an important aspect of the illustrated embodiment of the present invention, a flow chart of the preferred functionality of the illustrated embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIG. ~~3~~ 4, and indicated generally at 180. After receiving data with the corresponding control data on an input port from a source agent (block 182), the control data of the received data are then read (block 184) and determined whether the control data contain valid information for the data received on the input port (block 186). If not, the process is aborted (block 188), since the control data contained invalid information. If, however, the information from the control data has been verified as valid (block 186), the requested destination output port for the received data is obtained from the control data (block 188).